

SECRET

Information

ALBANIA

August 1953

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 382B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

On 1 August, the people's Assembly received the program of the new government from Prime Minister Hoxha. His speech revealed that Albania is following the new Moscow policy of easing the industrialization program and the economic burden of the population, but without relaxing control over the country. He reiterated the loyalty of Albania to the USSR and bitterly attacked the Balkan Pact, the Anglo-American and their propagandists.

On 17 August, the first meeting took place between the representatives of Yugoslavia and Albania to establish a Border Commission. Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria previously have created bilateral frontier Commissions with Yugoslavia. Border incidents, however, appear to have continued.

King Zog has been informed that the Egyptian government no longer recognizes his diplomatic status, although it will allow Zog and his entourage to remain in the country and will provide them with "laissez-passer". Zog took no action against the closing of the legation, since he had intended to close it for financial reasons in any event. Because of the action taken by the Egyptian Government, a division suspended action to obtain Zog's American visa.

During the period covered by this report, Mr. Hassan Costi, President of the WFA, sent a letter under our direction to Ambassador of State Dulles. Mr. Dulles replied in kind, noting the U. S. attitude towards Albania. Despite the fact that the British considered Mr. Dulles' letter too strong and wished to spend more time in consideration of the matter, and despite the feelings of the WFA that the reply provided an opening for Communist propaganda, the exchange of letters was made public on 26 August. So far, the release has been carried only over that of Free Europe. The letters will also be exploited by Radio Free Europe, the Albanian Free Bulletin, and the Voice of Free Albania.

2. OPERATIONS

Albanian project WOLF is derived from the [ ] by the project WOLF Chief. A [ ] in [ ] handle the Interrogation and answering of Albanian refugees.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (CONT'D)

a. Paramilitary

(1) Willow team, which exfiltrated on 26 July, reported that c/a 20 June a team of 4 men was attacked in the area of Komel and Vakolica. Three men were killed, and the fourth, after fighting alone for three hours, took his life with poison. Although the location and date of action coincide with the last position report from Apple/3, the size of the group and the description of the team lead to the belief that it could also be the Orange-Blue group.

(2) The five-man Pig team was infiltrated into Albania on 16 August, and was ambushed two hours later. Two team members exfiltrated to Greece on the 15th, and the other three followed on the 16th, in good order, with high morale.

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- 2 -

(3) On 25 August, a successful flight was made to drop token arms and supplies to an alleged resistance leader, who was alerted by flares during the leaflet drop of 22 August and whose name and supposed location had been provided by a recent refugee (c.f. para 30 (6) below). Although no reception signal was visible, 250 lbs. of supplies were dropped. In addition to the supplies, 400 lbs. of leaflets were dropped as a diversionary action during the flight.

B. Political-Psychological

(1) The British dropped SCFA leaflets on the night of 3 August. Although the flight plan is unknown, some of these leaflets landed at Bar and Vlasic in Yugoslavia, according to the Yugoslav radio.

(2) On the night of 22 August, an air-drop of 400 lbs. of leaflets took place. It is was the first drop of the digest of Shapirovia, the SCFA newspaper, designed to exploit events as they occur. Incorporated in the digest was a defection appeal to high-ranking Communists.

(3) The clandestine radio, Voice of Free Albania, maintained a regular broadcast schedule against power transmitters for all broadcasts. During this period, a defection appeal, similar to that printed in the Shapirovia digest, was broadcast. Since 26 August, all transmissions have been heavily jammed, possibly as the result of the defection appeal.

(4) The SCFA semi-monthly newspaper, Shapirovia, was printed in Rome on schedule. The digest version of Shapirovia had its first printing in Germany for the air-drop of 27 August.

(5) The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in Rome in English, French, and Italian, published its 20th issue on 23 July.

(6) René Korché, who escaped from Yugoslavia with Zef Shillaku in order to contact "the Americans", came to Rome and met the SCFILED representative on 16 August. He made the following claims in his statement: Zef Shillaku is the leader of a Yugoslav-controlled underground net of 35,000 persons, among whom are Muzet Blceski, president of the Assembly, and Toc Jakova, Minister of Finance, as well as other prominent military officers and civilians. Zef Shillaku has been collaborating with the Yugoslavs under a written agreement negotiated by two Yugoslav agents, Durcan and Djordjevic. The agreements were based on the understanding that the Americans were backing Yugoslav efforts to liberate Albania. Shillaku breaks suspicious of the Yugoslavs when American personnel were allegedly absent. Zef Shillaku crossed into Yugoslavia and designated Korché and Zef Shillaku to escape and initiate direct liaison with the Americans. Korché reported that Durcan Djordjevic made the statement that "the Americans invaded the Yugoslavs twice - 1921, and 1945. They will not do it a third time. This time Albania will become the 7th Republic of Yugoslavia." Korché also states that the reason the Yugoslavs were so wary when Apostle Jonski claimed 50,000 supporters was that they felt the secret of the 15,000 Shillaku net might have been exposed. Shillaku requested that he be picked up by an American helicopter as he fears the Yugoslavs may liquidate him before liaison has been established between the Americans and the net. René Korché was carriage-tested in Trieste with satisfactory results. It was decided to attempt to contact Shillaku, despite the fact that pick-up

by helicopter

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

- 3 -

by helicopter was not feasible and it was considered unwise to make any personnel drops. In accordance with Shillane's message, a flare was dropped on 22 August, and a message and supplies were dropped on 25 August. The British have been informed of this development. The RUMI Executive Committee has been told of the existence of the net but given no details for security reasons.

Chief, SW/1

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